

# THE ALMA RECORD.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 24, 1914

WHOLE NUMBER 1867

## ORATORIO "MESSIAH"

By the Alma College Choral Club

TUESDAY EVE., DECEMBER 22

A Large Audience Enjoyed Splendid Rendition

In keeping with the Christmas season, and the special efforts of the municipality to bring good-feeling and cheer to all people in and about Alma, The Choral Club of Alma College presented Handel's great Christmas oratorio at the Presbyterian church on the evening of Tuesday, December 22. The "Messiah" was presented by a chorus of 50 voices, assisted by an orchestra of 20 pieces, pipe organ, and soloists, and under the direction of Prof. Veatch. The club had been preparing for the rendition of this remarkable composition for some time, with the result that the people of Alma heard this oratorio given in its finest form.

The "Messiah" was written by Handel in 1741 in the incredibly short space of twenty-three days, showing more than any other single fact the remarkable genius of the composer as well as his power of concentration. Never during his life, however, was the "Messiah" presented on a scale commensurate with the merit of the work or the purpose of the composer.

The theme of the "Messiah" deals with the foreshadowing, the advent, the sufferings and the final triumph of the Christ. The first part gives utterance in no unmistakable terms to the longing of the world for its Redeemer, beginning with the words of Isaiah "Comfort ye, my people, saith your God." The second part vividly portrays the suffering and trials of the Messiah and closes with the triumph over death and the grave, the ascension into Heaven as expressed in the greatest of all choral numbers, the famous and beautiful Hallelujah Chorus. The third and last part sets forth the effect of Christ's sacrifice upon the world and expresses the aspirations and longing of religious faith. In the closing of the oratorio the composer gives free reign to an intense and increasing religious enthusiasm, with the effect that he produces a stupendous climax. The lasting impression is of the soul of a master artist, inspired with religious feeling, expressing in beautiful arias the innermost thoughts.

The numbers sung by the chorus were interspersed with solos, giving the entire oratorio a pleasing effect.

The people of Alma are indeed fortunate in being able to hear so remarkable a composition at so appropriate a season.

## POPULAR CHAUTAUQUA

Ithaca, St. Louis and Mt. Pleasant Will Have Chautauquas Next Summer.

The success which the Alma Chautauqua gained in its two seasons seems to have been a powerful stimulant to the ambitions of our sister cities in Central Michigan. For the Alma Chautauqua of 1913 seven hundred and fifty season tickets were sold. Last summer despite the hostile attitude and aggressive competition from our St. Louis friends over nine hundred season tickets were sold. St. Louis who entered the chautauqua field only last summer assures all that her's was an unqualified success. Recently Ithaca decided to have one also and has secured a very good program of entertainments.

With all three cities and towns of Gratiot, providing themselves with a week of entertainment during the summer months Mt. Pleasant decided last week to follow suit. A five-day chautauqua with the Central Chautauqua System providing the attractions has been secured. The best number on their program seems to be the Kilties band of Toronto, Canada. What a tidal wave of enthusiasm for better forms of amusement Alma has stirred up by her progressiveness.

### PRE-NUPTIAL PARTY

Miss Lena Beverly gave a party Saturday evening at her home on West Superior street in honor of Miss Adelaide Dowker who is to be married in Detroit on New Year's day to Guy Campbell. About twenty friends of Miss Dowker were present and a most delightful time was enjoyed by all.

### IMPROVED LONG DISTANCE SERVICE.

Manager Mr. F. Allmann, of the Michigan State Telephone Company promises better long distance service this winter than ever before. He has just finished the big annual repair job of tree trimming, wire tightening, bracing corners, replacing bad poles and cross arms.

While service may be good without going to this expense every fall, the Michigan State Telephone Company takes no chances. The winter, with its sleet and snow plays havoc with lines not in the best of repair, and the service is of too good importance to the public to overlook any precautions.

Trees make more bad telephone service than any other one thing. If the wires do not clear them sufficiently, service is impossible. Being part of the Bell system, which operates all over the United States, the Michigan Company must be in a position at all times to handle long call messages. This very fact forces us to keep our lines in better shape than if we handled messages to nearby points only.

## A DOUBLE WEDDING

At the Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pardee Last Wednesday

A very pretty double wedding was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pardee on East Superior street last Wednesday at high noon when their daughters, Misses Hazel Lucile and Reva Mae, were united in marriage to Messrs. Delbert Pollman and Charles Russell Putnam by Rev. William H. Mason, of the First Presbyterian church.

The brides were beautifully gowned in white lansdown and both carried large bouquets of brides' roses. The room was a mass of white and pink carnations which with other floral decorations made a most attractive background for the nuptial ceremonies. Exactly at the hour of midday the bridal procession formed and marched to the parlor while Mrs. Frank Pardee played the wedding march from Mendelssohn, where under a large white bell the ring service was performed.

Immediately following the reading of the marriage ceremony a three-course dinner was served to the forty guests. Many out-of-town guests were present, among whom were Mrs. Richard Church and Mrs. Pollman of Jackson, Mrs. Frank Pardee, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Bosworth and Mrs. Otis Zible of Lansing, Mrs. Charles E. Pardee of Grand Rapids and Mr. and Mrs. Little of Rantoul, Illinois.

The wedding party left on the afternoon train for Lansing and Jackson. After a short honeymoon trip the two couples will return to the city. Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Pollman will live on the Grafton farm one-half mile south of the city. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam are undecided where they will make their home.

For the past five years Mrs. Pollman has been teaching school while her sister, Mrs. Putnam has been employed in the Union telephone office.

### DRAINED AT LAST

Monday saw the completion of the drain which will run from Swift & Co.'s factory to the river by ditches with Joe Ray in charge and for the first time since the factory was built in 1903 the basement of the building will be free from water. Since it was first constructed it has been necessary to keep pumps going at intervals to carry off the water. Many obstacles have been in the way of the completion of the job but at last these have been surmounted and more healthful conditions will be found there.

### PETTY THIEVERY

Thieves broke into Cohen's clothing store Tuesday night or Wednesday morning and stole two sweaters valued at fifteen dollars. They removed a window in the rear of the store and gained admittance in that way. Local talent is given credit for the job as it was impossible to find trace of any further activities in the store. A few days spent in the service of the county will undoubtedly put a stop to such depredations.

### WELL APPRECIATED

Mr. C. E. Scott, who gave one of the best lectures Alma people have ever heard last Wednesday evening in the auditorium of the Presbyterian church was well appreciated as was also his traveling companion, Dr. Kille, who also gave a lecture the same evening. The latter's lecture was given additional force by the use of stereopticon views in which he showed conditions as they exist in certain foreign countries, particularly China.

After the lecture a collection was taken up and over one hundred and thirty dollars was given for the missionary movement in China.



**A Merry Christmas to You.**  
We wish you all kinds prosperity  
and happiness.

### ENDS OWN LIFE

Andrew Watkins, formerly an inmate of the Masonic Home, and who recently attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat in the corridor of the Home after an attempt to regain admittance, died at 8 o'clock Monday morning at the age of 76 years, at the Brainerd hospital despite the efforts of Dr. Brainerd and nurses to save his life.

His remains were removed to the morgue where G. V. Wright took charge of them. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at his home in Grass Lake, near Jackson.

It was a sad case and death came as a great relief to the unfortunate man. Apparently he was slightly demented for he has made several efforts to accomplish the deed and even when the surgeon made great efforts to sustain his life he persisted in his efforts to end it.

## ANNUAL CORN SHOW

Forty-five Farmers Enter in the Contest

W.J. SNYDER WINS FIRST PRIZE

Mr. Boyd an Expert Corn Grower Acted as Judge.

The first annual corn show held by the Economy Shoe Store under the direction of John Chick came to a most successful close last Thursday with Mr. W. J. Snyder carrying off the first prize and Mr. Putnam of Springbrook Farm winning second highest honors. In point of entries and in point of interest the corn show held by Mr. Chick was one of the best of its kind Alma has seen in some time. Forty-five farmers submitted samples of their best corn for competitive exhibition and during the two months of competition the interest ran high.

Mr. R. L. Duckworth of the Grassmere Farm was successful in winning the third prize, Mr. J. E. Wiggins the fourth and Gilbert Berry the fifth prize. There were ten different kinds of corn represented and the finest specimens raised in the county were submitted. The prizes ranged from seven dollars to one.

The presence of the great number of farmers who formerly claimed Illinois for their home state is responsible for the development of scientific corn raising in this county. They come to Alma and other Gratiot communities thoroughly conversant with all of the latest and best methods of corn seed selection as well as the best methods of cultivation and utilization of by-products. The application of their scientific methods has revolutionized the formerly rather slovenly methods of handling this grain.

Next year Mr. Chick will have an even larger corn show with better facilities for proper display. The corn will be entered according to its various classes and kinds and prizes for the best specimens in each class will be given. This year Mr. Putnam who secured the second prize, raised what is probably the finest crop of corn in the county though his entries for the corn show were hardly up to Mr. Snyder's. Mr. Boyd, an expert in corn-raising, was judge of the contest.

### AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING

Alma High Opens B. B. Season by Giving Lakeview a 35 to 12 Beating on Opponents' Floor

The Alma high school basketball team opened their season in a most impressive manner last Friday evening when they defeated Lakeview on their own floor by the score of 35 to 12 in a fast game in which the all-round work of the local basketball players showed off to a good advantage. Captain Perry and Haner as guards held their opposing forwards well in hand and only two field baskets were secured off these Alma defense men.

Smith led both teams in the matter of scoring though he was followed close by Tinkham and Dutt. The first named tossed six baskets, while the two latter secured five and four baskets, respectively. At first the Alma men had some difficulty in finding the baskets, the unusually poor facilities for light hampering their offensive work considerably. However, their scoring machine rapidly got into motion and the tale was soon told.

Coach Maxwell has a championship team in the making and with a little more development they will be able to give the best teams in Central Michigan cause for grief when they meet. With Smith leading the scoring part of the machine and Captain Perry the defensive part of it the Alma high basketball affairs are well taken care of.

## MUNICIPAL XMAS TREE

Corner of State and Superior Streets

EVERYBODY CORDIALLY INVITED

Santa Claus Will be There to Give a Box of Candy to Every Child in Alma

Tonight at 7 o'clock Alma will hold its first Municipal Christmas Tree and the corner of State and Superior streets will be the scene of the most beautiful holiday celebration that this city has ever had. It will be an occasion which has been prompted by the kindest spirit which can rule men's and women's hearts at this time of the year. Christmas spirit pure and simple will rule tonight and all, both young and old, will gather together to observe as one Christmas eve as it has never before been observed in this city.

The tree will be beautifully adorned with typical Christmas decorations, but of far more importance to the 800 children who will be present it will be adorned with a box of candy for each and every one. Besides a box of candy there will be an orange for every child.

Shortly before 7 o'clock a procession will form one block in each of the four directions from the corner on which the tree is placed. These four groups with four leaders each to direct the singing will march to the Tree and carolling Christmas songs. The four groups will meet at the Tree and form one large procession which will march around the Tree during which they will sing five carols.

Immediately following these Mayor Cook will deliver a two-minute address of welcome and will be followed by Superintendent of Schools Schultz who will also give a two-minute address of welcome. In view of the fact that it will be rather cold to continue the services farther, directly after the completion of these brief addresses by the two men named Santa Claus will make his appearance, at least he has given a binding promise that he will come to direct the distribution of the presents. From his home among the Icebergs of the Arctic circle he sent word to Scout Master Charles Murphy of the Alma Boy Scouts to meet him outside of the city with four or five of his best Scouts. At the meeting place the Scouts will unharness the reindeer which will bring Santa as far as that place, the Scouts themselves will drag the jolly old Christmas king the rest of the way to the Municipal Tree.

Santa Claus will be a mighty busy man for about a half hour. He has promised that he will visit the Municipal Tree before visiting any other tree in the city so that if there is any little children in Alma who want Santa to stop at their homes and leave presents they had better come to the Municipal Tree or Santa will be pretty mad.

Though the Tree will be primarily for the children it is hoped and expected that every man and woman in the city will also be on hand to make it a real public Christmas celebration.

Mrs. V. H. Shepard, who has charge of the sale of the Red Cross Seals for Gratiot county, wishes to extend her thanks to the citizens of Gratiot county for their hearty co-operation in this good health movement. The rural teachers, village teachers, Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scouts deserve special mention, as it was their efforts that pushed the sale.

We also wish to extend our hearty thanks to the business men of Alma for their support in making Merchants' Day, December 24th, a success, as the Red Cross Seals with their message of good cheer greeted us on packages purchased that day. We must not forget the doctors who placed them on their prescriptions from December 24th until all were used. The lawyers and real estate men were also loyal to the cause. We also extend thanks to the newspapers who were so kind as to donate the printing which helped so much in making this campaign of the Red Cross Seals for 1914 a success.

### DELIGHTFUL RECEPTION

At the home of Mrs. William Bahlke on State street the members of the ladies' advisory board of the college gave a delightful reception in honor of the lady members of the college faculty last Saturday afternoon from four to six. About twenty ladies were present. Beautiful decorations of salvia and holly lent an air of Christmas spirit to the occasion.

Light refreshments were served by Mrs. Bahlke in the dining room.